

NUCMC Catalog Record

Creator: Rice, John B. (John Birchard), 1832-1893

Title: John B. Rice collection.

Date Created: 1830-1911

Extent: 1,800 items.

Biographical Note: Physician, of Fremont, Ohio; served as surgeon with 10th and 72nd Ohio Volunteers during Civil War; after war resumed medical practice in association with brother Dr. Robert H. Rice; served one term as state legislator (1880); founder of Trommer Extract of Malt Co. in 1875; U.S. representative from Ohio, 1881-1883.

Summary: Personal, political, and business correspondence, of Rice, including Civil War letters to his wife, Sarah (Wilson) Rice, and other family members; notes, brochures, and circulars relating to his medical practice; documents concerning his position as Civil War surgeon, including hospital bills, orders, supply inventories, muster rolls, and reports of the 72nd Ohio Volunteers; letters from veterans seeking pensions and/or documentation of war related disabilities; business papers concerning Trommer Medical Extract of Malt Co. and his activities as partner in a silver mine in Lampazos, Mexico; medical ledgers and account books; political papers (1870s-1880s), including correspondence with constituents; small amount of material pertaining to early history of Sandusky County, its churches, and medical organizations; and photographs and other papers. ‡b Correspondents include brothers Henry, Robert H., and Charles F. Rice.

An addendum of 52 letters between Rice and his wife was acquired by the Center in 2004. ‡b The bulk of this collection contains letters which John Rice wrote to his wife and letters she wrote to him during his service in the Civil War. His letters to her (numbering 16) date from Nov. 28, 1863 to Oct. 15, 1864. Her letters to him (numbering 36) date from Jan. 17, 1863 to Feb. 10, 1864. John writes to Lizzie about local soldiers from the 72nd Ohio as well as their family members who may have been visiting in camp. After the death of Carrie Buckland, daughter of General Ralph P. Buckland, a noticeably grieving John describes the circumstances surrounding her death. He devotes several letters to the Battle of Guntown (Brice's Crossroads), giving a particularly stirring account of its devastation and writing very strong words about the incompetence of Brigadier General Samuel D. Sturgis. Many of the letters deal with Lizzie and her social struggles in Fremont, Ohio. Lizzie reports the activities of their Sandusky County, Ohio, friends and neighbors, informing Dr. Rice of those who died, married, divorced, or gave birth. Lizzie Rice also tells of parties; fundraisers for the war effort; family activities; political disputes between local Copperheads and Union supporters; the townspeople's celebration after the Union

victory at Gettysburg; and local election results and the town's reaction. Her letters give an interesting look at life on the Northwest Ohio home front during the Civil War. Also includes letters to John from his mother, brother, and friends, and letters to Lizzie from her brother and friend.

Subjects:

Medicine—Practice—Ohio—Fremont.

Veterans—United States.

Ohio—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865

Rice family.

Representatives, U.S. Congress—Ohio. \$2 itoamc

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